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# TAPERING PANTS



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Division of Home Economics  
Federal Extension Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture

# TAPERING PANTS

Are the pants the right length? If not, try them on the child and mark the new length with a basting line. Use this basting line instead of the crease of the old hemline when you follow the directions.

One thing in the directions may bother you. The last step calls for pressing out the old creases in the pant leg and pressing in new creases. The new creases will not be on the straight of the material like the old ones were. But that won't worry the child as much as wearing handed-down pants that aren't tapered like the other kids' pants.

You can taper men's and women's pants and slacks the same way.

Do not try to alter durable press pants because old seams and creases will show. Look at the pants to see if there is a durable press label sewn inside the waistband. Some of these labels are: Koratron, Sta-Prest, Dan-Prest, Penn-Prest, Burmi-Prest, and Perma-Prest. These trade names are used only to help you know what to look for. Many other companies also make and sell durable press clothes. The U.S. Department of Agriculture does not recommend one kind more than another.

Prepared by a committee headed by Alice Linn, Clothing Specialist, Division of Home Economics, Federal Extension Service, and Mrs. Eileen E. Gibson, Extension Textiles and Clothing Specialist, University of Missouri.

# To Taper Pants or Slacks

1. Take off one shoe. Measure around the heel and ankle. Add 1 inch. Write this down.

Example:

$$\begin{array}{r} 12'' \\ + 1 \\ \hline 13'' \end{array}$$



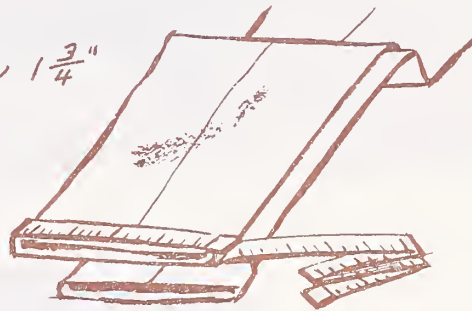
2. Measure around the bottom of the pant leg. Write this down.

Example:

$$\begin{array}{r} 16\frac{1}{2}'' \text{ measure around bottom of pant leg} \\ - 13'' \text{ measure around foot} \\ \hline 3\frac{1}{2}'' \end{array}$$

3. Subtract the measure of the foot from the measure of the pant leg. Divide by 2. This is the amount to take in the pant leg seam.

$$2 \overline{) 3.50''} = 1.75'' \text{ or } 1\frac{3}{4}''$$

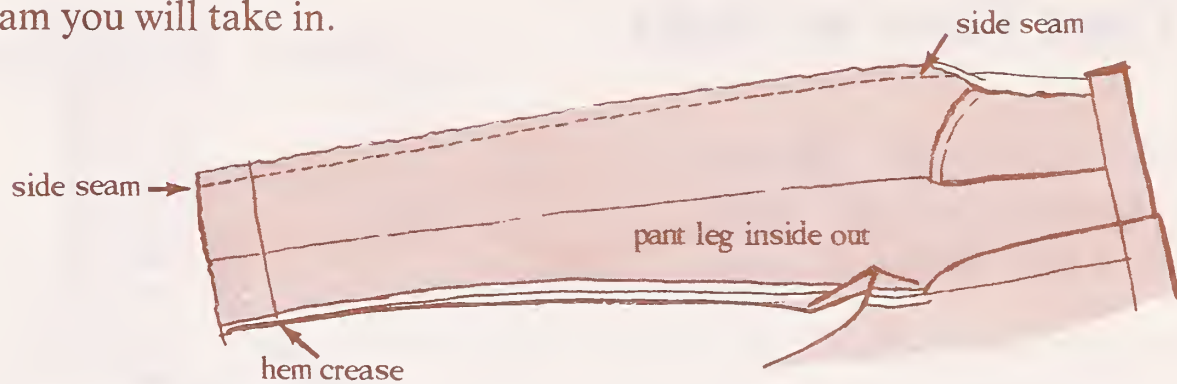


4. Turn the pants inside out. Pull out the thread that holds the hem in the pant leg.

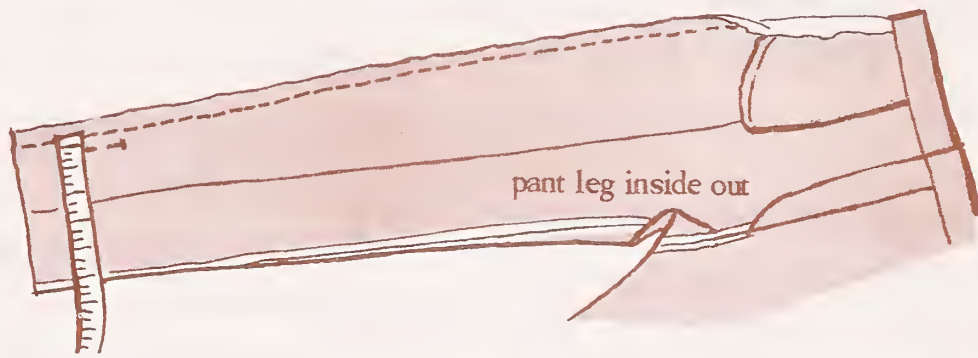




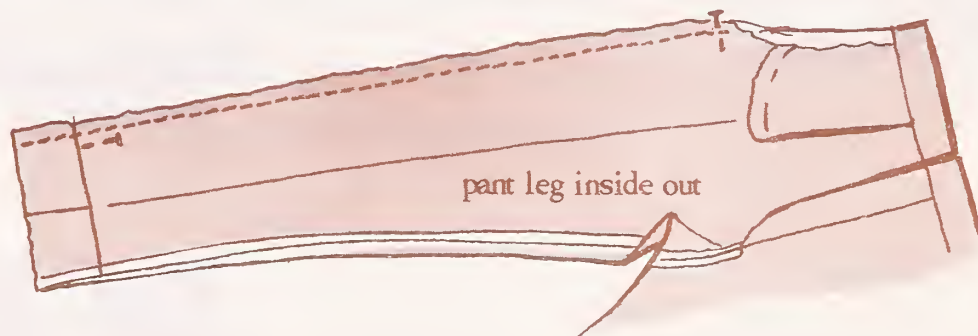
5. Lay one pant leg flat on a table. Smooth out the side seam. This is the seam you will take in.



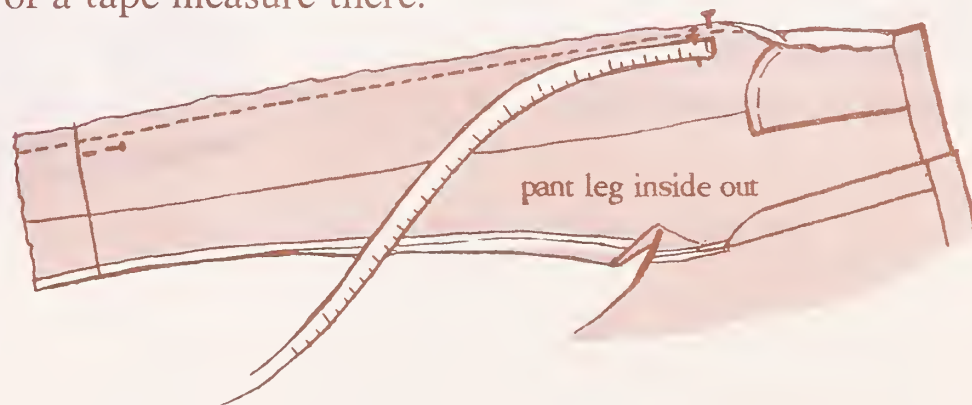
6. From the side seam stitching, measure the amount you figured in step 3. Measure this along the old hem crease line. Put a pin there.



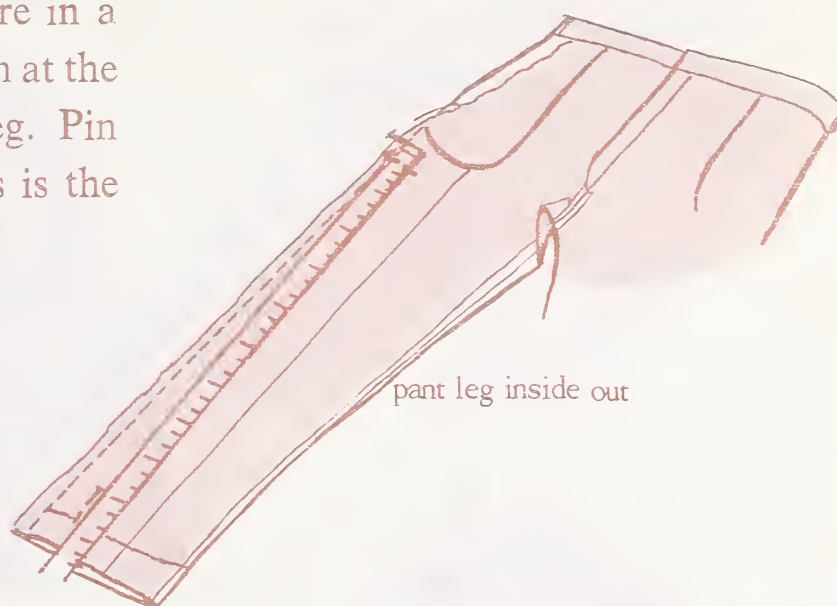
7. Put a pin in the old seam line just below the pocket.



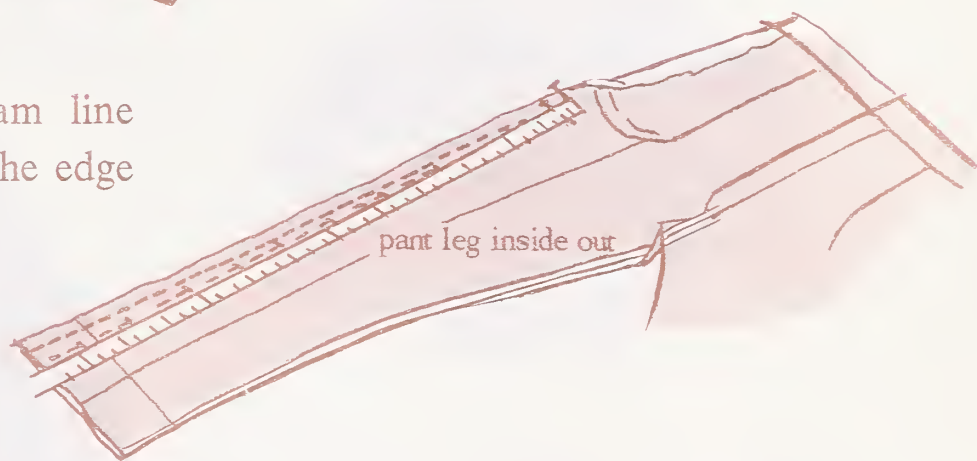
8. Pin one end of a tape measure there.



9. Pull the tape measure in a straight line to the pin at the bottom of the pant leg. Pin the tape there. This is the new seam line.



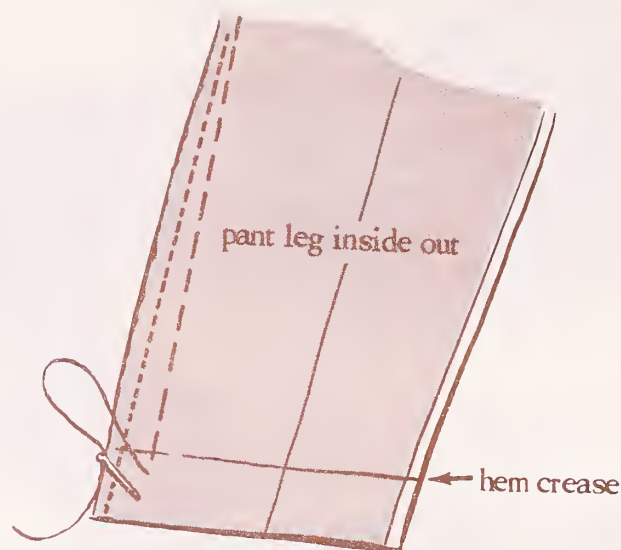
10. Mark the new seam line with pins close to the edge of the tape.



11. Take off the tape measure. Baste the new seam line you pinned. Pull out each pin when you come to it.

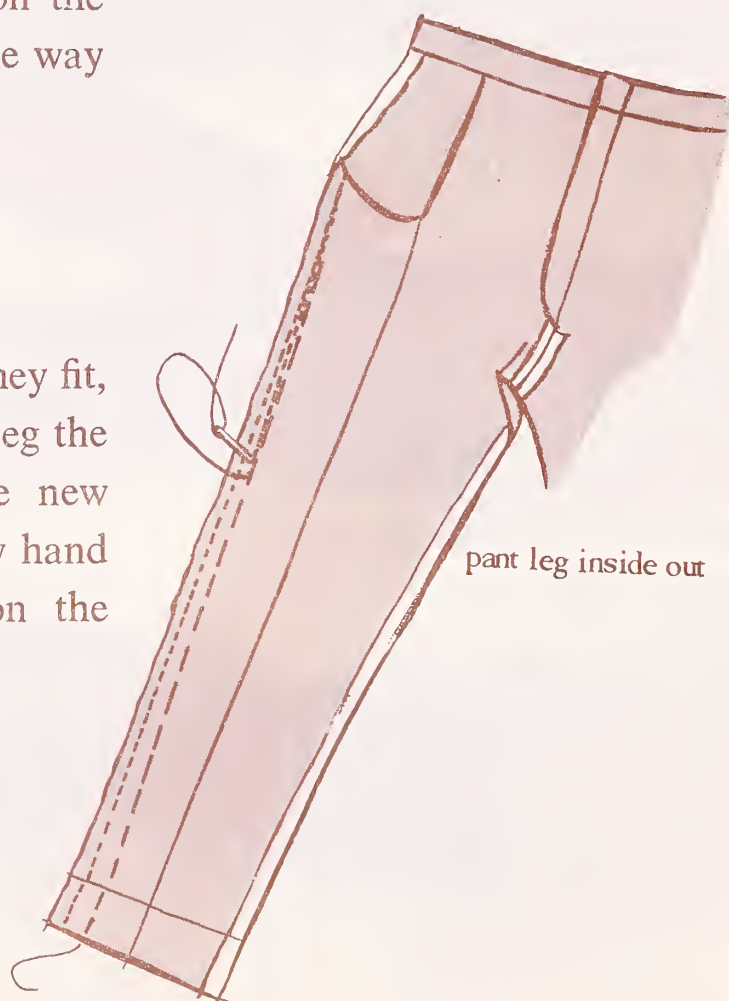


12. When you get to the crease of the old hemline, baste straight out to the raw edge, not on a slant.



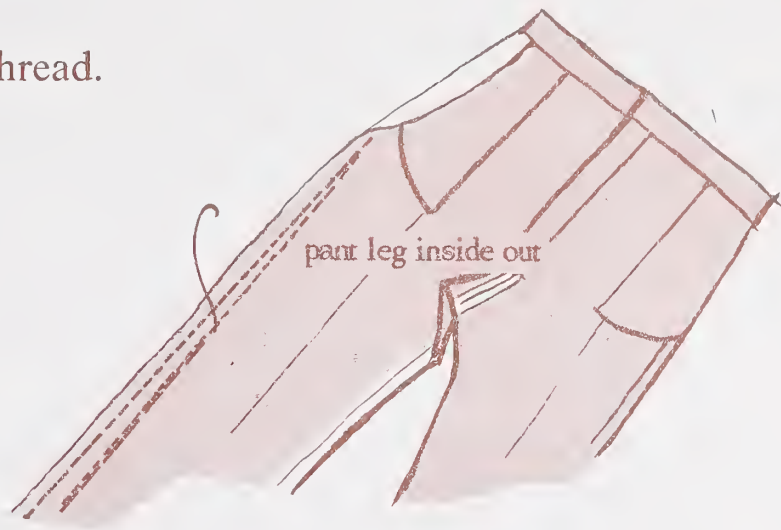
13. Turn the pants right side out. Try the pants on the child. Do you like the way they fit?

14. If you like the way they fit, baste the other pant leg the same way. Sew the new seams. Backstitch by hand or machine stitch on the basting line.





15. Remove the basting thread.



16. Cut off the extra material about a half inch from your stitching.



17. Pull out the sewing threads in the old seam to the place where they meet the new seam. With a pin, pull one thread through the cloth so you can tie the threads. Then your seam won't pull apart.



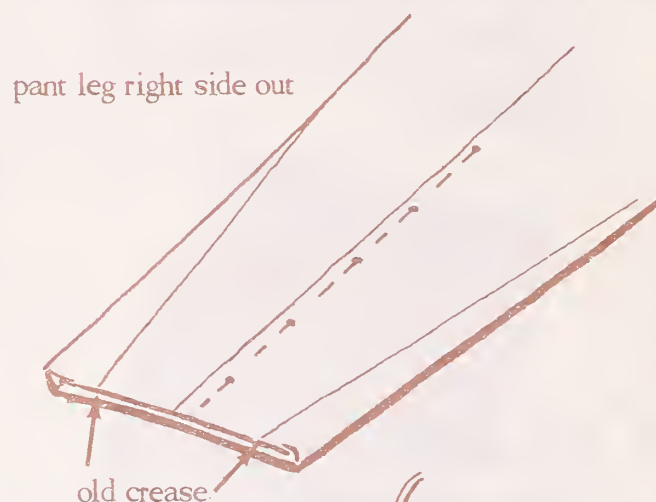
18. Press the seam.



19. Turn the pant leg up along the old hem crease. Sew the hem back in place.



20. Turn the pant leg right side out. Lay the pant leg flat with the new seam on top of the other seam. Pin these two seams together up to the crotch.



21. Press out the old creases as you press in the new creases.

